

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: 'With God at our side, who can be against us?' Strengthened by God's word, we turn to the Lord, for all our needs.

Reader: For courage to be people of faith.

All: Abraham is our father in faith. May his desire to obey God strengthen us in this time of Lent to new resolutions of trust in God's faithfulness and love.

Reader: For a spirit of thanks to God.

All: May we grow in understanding God's gifts to the church and to the world and in this time of Lent give thanks for the gift of Jesus who pleads for us before our God.

Reader: For a renewal in our commitment to the way of Jesus.

All: In the tradition of Moses and Elijah, Jesus is both teacher and prophet. Following God's command, may we learn to listen to the beloved Son that, like him, our lives may be transformed by God.

Reader: For delight in the presence of God.

All: Like Peter and James and John, may we be filled with delight in the presence of God in our lives; and may we be renewed in our desire to live as disciples of God's Son.

Presider: God of the transfiguration, fill us with your love and comfort. Make us eager to listen to your Son, even to death and resurrection. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CAN YOU HELP AFTER TODAY'S MASS

Many hands make light work.

If you are able please help our volunteers sanitise the church after today's Mass.

Check in with your volunteers on the door.

LENTEN PROGRAM FOR SYDNEY

Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples:
A Lenten Companion

Copies available at Mass or in Parish Office
Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion is a means for parish staff and parishioners to meditate upon those foundations of spiritual renewal for individuals and communities that are at the heart of our Archdiocesan mission plan, Go Make Disciples, and to ask for the grace to grow where growth is needed.

This practical resource includes the Sunday Gospels, reflection questions, devotional resources such as the Stations of the Cross, and also a spiritual reflection on foundations of the Christian life as explored in the Sunday Gospel, with reflections by Prof Tracey Rowland, Peter Holmes, Fr Chris Ryan MGL, Mother Hilda Scott OSB, Fr Kelvin Lovegrove, Fr David Braithwaite SJ, and Dr Paul Morrissey.

If you have any enquiries about Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples, please contact the Parish Renewal Team at parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org or on (02) 9390 5330

Our faith community acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of the Land on which we worship, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.



Parish newsletter of the communities of St Francis of Assisi Paddington, St Joseph Edgecliff and the 8:45am Mass at Double Bay
In the care of the Franciscans since 1879

St Francis of Assisi Church 463 Oxford St Paddington : St Joseph Church 12 Albert St Edgecliff

Parish Office: 66 Gordon St Paddington 2021 Tel: 02 9331 4043

Website: www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com Email: office@stf-stj.com

28 February 2021: 2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

Lent and Sacrifice.

Today's Gospel passage and the first reading are taking us on a journey to deepen our understanding on the death of Jesus. For early Christians, the cross was a scandal. The primitive Church struggled to understand how can Jesus be the Messiah, and indeed God's beloved Son, and yet he was crucified and died? They did not have problem with Jesus working miracles, peaching and with large number of followers. The gospels tell us that even the disciples fail to understand why Jesus had to suffer and die on the cross.

This Sunday's transfiguration passage is the midpoint in Mark's gospel. This is one of three scenes in which Jesus is revealed as God's Son in Mark. The first is the baptism of Jesus and the third and final declaration is a reaction to the death of Jesus by the Centurion. In the transfiguration account we hear Peter, James and John witness Jesus undergo a "metamorphosis", in which Jesus's divine status is outwardly disclosed. The appearance of Elijah and Moses, conversing with Jesus lends a particular nuance to this revelation. These two figures enjoy privileged position in the biblical tradition and is expected to play a role in establishment of the Kingdom. Transfiguration is not simply a revelation of Jesus' identity, but a revelation of profound mystery at the heart of the Gospel, God's costly personal involvement in the evil of the world. Jesus is not just Rabbi/Messiah/Prophet but God's Beloved Son. What God did not require of Abraham, the sacrifice of his only beloved son (Isaac). God will require of Godself for the salvation of the world. (Excerpts from A Costly Freedom by Brendan Byrne SJ)

What the disciples experienced on mountain is what we experience occasionally in our daily lives, the thin veil between divine and human. Mystics and saints speak about the closeness of God and describe encounters with God. The sacraments too remind us of God's abiding presence in our lives and world. Let us listen to Jesus and learn how to be faithful in our relationship with God even in difficult circumstances. Jesus is the source of our life, salvation and hope.
Fr Anthoni Selvaraj OFM

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SOFA (SOS) – 3rd March 2021 (SPIRITUALITY IN THE PUB IN CORONAVIRUS MODE!)

We invite you to join us 3rd March to SOS by Zoom

THEME & TOPIC: "#reconnecting..."

Speakers: Amna K Hassan, a former member of the Australian Federal Police and Founder of the Auburn Giants Women's AFL football team. Amna is the Organisational Development Coordinator at the Lebanese Muslim Association.

Fr Geoffrey Plant, the Parish Priest at St Michael's Church in Lane Cove and also affectionately known as the "YouTube Priest"

Wednesday 3 March, 7.30pm - 9pm. Enter room from 7.15pm (AEDT, UTC +11)

You can access the Zoom meeting through the link below
www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com/spirituality-in-the-pub/

or if you have the Zoom app, launch it and use:
Meeting ID: 842 1464 8236 and Password: 944554

More info: Marea: 0414 873 910

RCIA

Are you interested to explore our faith or do you know someone who is? Would you like to accompany someone who is undertaking their own faith journey?

We invite you to join our RCIA program.

**Join us Thursdays at 730pm
in the Parish Meeting Room
66 Gordon Street, Paddington
(Directly behind St Francis of Assisi Church, Paddington)**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington - following 9am Mass
St Joseph, Edgecliff - 5pm prior to 5:30pm Mass

WEEKLY ONLINE LENTEN GROUP

Join Fr Noel Custodio, host of The Furnace podcast, as he leads an online Lenten Group which will use Receive the Grace to Go Make Disciples: A Lenten Companion.

Dates: Wednesdays of Lent.

Time: 7:30pm – 8:15pm

Register: www.gomakedisciples.org.au

PROJECT COMPASSION

Margret is a teacher at a school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands that suffered long-term water shortages and damage from Tropical Cyclone Harold. With Caritas Australia's support, Margret's school installed water tanks, repaired cyclone damage and implemented COVID-19 prevention measures, and is now planning to boost food security.

Donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help people living with disabilities in the Solomon Islands gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to protect our common home.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



WELCOME

New to the parish? Please come and meet one of the Parish Team after mass and take home one of our Welcome Packs to find out more about your new community.

Welcome Packs are available by contacting the Parish Office.

OUR PARISH

Anthoni Selvaraj ofm - Parish Administrator
Francisco Basnayake ofm & Joseph Nguyen ofm - Assistant Priests
Ruth Rawlinson - Parish Manager
Alanna Sparks & Cate Stivala - Parish Secretary
Tanith Bryce - Cantor, Edgecliff
Noel Debien & Bransby Byrne - Music Dir. & Organist Paddington
Nicole Smeulders - Cantor Paddington
Emma-Gai Gold & Alanna Sparks - Safeguarding Support Officers
Louise O'Brien - Principal, St Francis of Assisi Primary School



WEEKLY SERVICES AND SACRAMENTS

No Bookings required. Contact free check-in is required at the door.

St Joseph, Edgecliff

Monday to Friday: 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11:00am & 5:30pm

Reconciliation prior to the Friday evening Mass (from 5pm).

St Francis of Assisi, Paddington

Monday to Friday: 9am

Saturday: 5:30pm (Vigil)

Sunday: 8:30am & 10:00am

Reconciliation from 5pm Saturday prior to Vigil Mass.

Are you or a loved one unable to attend Mass at this time?
If you would like to receive a visit in your home please contact the Parish Office.

We remember those in need of our prayers: our deceased, those in hospital, nursing homes, the homebound and defence force personnel.

Recently Deceased: Jose Herrera, Eva Beck, Wilga Wilschefski, Sue Gherdovich, Ken Finn, Patrick Donovan, Carol Ashford, George Farah, Betty Byrne, Peter-John Young, Maureen Marston, John Ryan, Sandra Soady, Ian Johnstone, Kholofelo Dzvukamanja, Sesarina Bau RSC, Elaine Boys, Aquino Lanojan, Mary Cook RSC, Marie Arakelian, Maria Orner, Tina Chen Visage, Pauline Babicci OSC, Frances Spicer, Bessie Leadbeatter, Maria Pullin, Barbara & Edgar Matthews, William Whitehair, Maurice Scully, Tony Fraser, Barry Watts, Judith Glaister RSM, Peter Mackenzie Smith, Francis Pimanda.

Mass Intentions: Marie Therese Whelan, Margaret-Mary Kiernan, Helen Boyd, Richard Connolly, The Kelly Family, Elson & Marie Sang, Eibhlin Killen, Ian Stewart, Catherine Murnane, June Fabbro, Dr George & Anne Duncan, Frank & Anne McDonald, Frank, Lena & Anne Kaine, Herbert Graham, Mee-Na Cheok, Peter Meagher, Betty Burnett, Helen & Jeffrey Moy, Tony Ponte, Anne Stabb, David Roderick, Jim Evans, Giuliano family, Nancy Rickard Jane, Michael & Jim Carnel, Sister Colleen Noonan RSC, Rev. M.J. O'Sullivan, Patrick & Mary O'Sullivan, Miquel Paulo Caccese, Gaetano Carone, Hector Destro, Tino Ordonez, Nancy Rickard, Bellanto & Fiorelli families, Alex & Zach, Terry McCue, Sorin & Donna, Catherine Heath, Barry Scott, Kalnejais Family, Kristen & Mark Crees, Jorge Fernandez, Genowefa & Mariam Wojciechowska, Finbarr O'Farrell, Ancet Ferenandes, Andrew Georgiou, Gladys Schell, Scott Mitchell, George Orr, Piper Family, Holy Souls.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with a crime are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, contact the police. You can also contact the *Safeguarding & Ministerial Integrity Office*: safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or on 93905810. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.



Archdiocese
Franciscan Friars

Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney
Franciscan Friars Australia



Parish
Franciscan friars

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Parish
Archdiocese

www.stfrancis-stjoseph.com
www.sydneycatholic.org

Our faith community demands that the Christian Churches including the Catholic Church provide full and meaningful reparation for those who have suffered clerical and institutional sexual abuse.

And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him'. Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray, cleanse us of our faults and sanctify your faithful in body and mind for the celebration of the paschal festivities. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

PREFACE OF THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Mt 17: 5

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. As we receive these glorious mysteries, we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord, for allowing us while still on earth to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ☩ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

R. Thanks be to God.



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

LIVING IN FAITHFULNESS AND HOPE

There are few moments in the scriptures as dramatic as when Abraham has steeled himself to seize the knife that will take the life of his son Isaac. In that moment on the mount Abraham revealed once again his true quality and the depth of his trust in the word of God. Years later, on a mountain God will reveal the glory and grandeur of the greatest gift of all, the presence of Jesus among us, the living word. As Abraham listened to the voice of the Lord God, so too the disciples of all ages are called to listen to the words of Jesus, the beloved Son. His words promise us a life that awaits us beyond death, and his presence will enable the disciples to move on with him to the cross. On a mountain a son's life was saved. Centuries later on a rocky outcrop, scorned and ridiculed, God will give what he did not take from Abraham so that all of us might be saved.

In many ways Paul reflects on what has been gained for us all by that sacrifice on Calvary. Like Abraham, God does not withhold even what is most precious. The glory and promise of the Transfiguration have their fulfilment in Jesus' victory over death, a victory which now enables us to live our lives in faithfulness and hope. Paul is concerned to share the certainty of his belief that, with Jesus pleading our cause, there is no need for fear.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / B

28 FEBRUARY 2021

LISTEN TO HIM. Jesus revealed his oneness with sinful humanity by his baptism in the river Jordan. On the mount of transfiguration he revealed his oneness with God who proclaims, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' It takes faith to listen to Jesus, who teaches that the path of life leads along the way of the cross. But, as Abraham learned, if we put our faith in God our reward will be great.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON cf. Ps 26: 8-9

Of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

P. You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

The Gloria is not said during Lent.

COLLECT

P. O God, who have commanded us to listen to your beloved Son, be pleased, we pray, to nourish us inwardly by your word, that, with spiritual sight made pure, we may rejoice to behold your glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Gen 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son', God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt

offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 115: 10, 15-19. R. 114: 9

R. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' / O precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his faithful. **R.**
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; / you have loosened my bonds. / A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: / I will call on the Lord's name. **R.**

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil / before all his people, / in the courts of the house of the Lord, / in your midst, O Jerusalem. **R.**

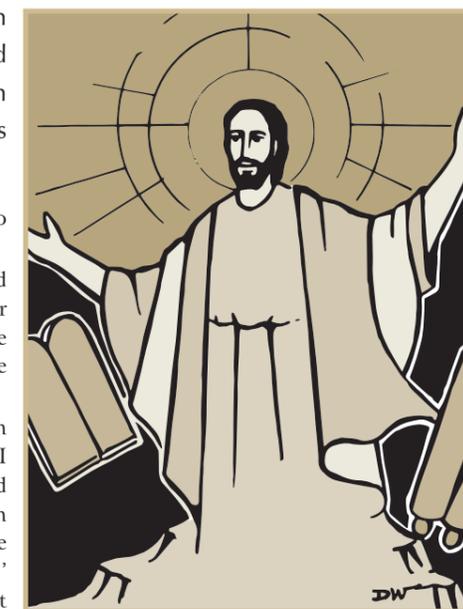
SECOND READING

Rom 8: 31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may



be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 17: 5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL Mk 9: 2-10

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi', he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah'. He did not know what to say; they were so frightened.